Whereas, Mass shootings of innocent victims have become more prevalent in America; and
Whereas, Most mass shooters have obtained pistols, long guns and explosives legally, though
some shooters might have been prevented from obtaining weapons had background checks
been properly performed; and
Whereas, Many states have a background check system to block criminals and persons with
severe mental health problems from being able to purchase pistols, long guns and explosives
(such as grenades, rocket propelled grenades, dynamite, C4, etc.); and
Whereas, Incomplete use of the background check system in private sales, gun show and
online sales makes it much easier for individuals to obtain guns without undergoing a
background check; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support legislation that requires a waiting
period and background checks prior to the purchase of all firearms, including the person-to-
person transfer, internet sales, and interstate transactions of all firearms. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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REFERENCES:
Sources of weapons used in mass shootings https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/03/us/how-massShooters-got-their-guns.html
OMH Automated Background Check System https://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/mhbc/
National Instant Background Check System https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/nics
RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Waiting Periods for Firearm Purchases H-145.991
The AMA supports using its influence in matters of health to effect passage of legislation in the Congress of the U.S. mandating a national waiting period that allows for a police background and positive identification check for anyone who wants to purchase a handgun from a gun dealer anywhere in our country.

Firearm Availability H-145.996
Our AMA: (1) Advocates a waiting period and background check for all firearm purchasers; (2) encourages legislation that enforces a waiting period and background check for all firearm purchasers; and (3) urges legislation to prohibit the manufacture, sale or import of lethal and non-lethal guns made of plastic, ceramics, or other non-metallic materials that cannot be detected by airport and weapon detection devices.